Railway Network in the Country

4378. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated a plan to build a fool proof and safe railway network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total investment likely to be made to get the said plan implemented;

(c) whether Government propose to seek assistance from foreign countries/companies for the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Safety is a continuous and ongoing process and Indian Railway accords highest priority to Safety in train operation. Efforts are made to prevent accidents by progressively implementing safety measures, depending upon availability of resources.

Safety depends upon the health of assets being maintained. Railway Safety Review Committee set up under the chairmanship of Justice HR. Khanna in . Part-I of their report has recommended that central government should give one time grant of Rs. 15000 Crores to railways so that arrears in renewal of vital safety installation are wiped out within a fixed time frame.

(c) and (d) Action will be taken on those recommendations which are accepted by the Government. The technology and expertise for a large number of safety projects is available indigenously. However, for few safety equipment like Auxiliary Warning System, Ultrasonic Fault detection divices etc. foreign assistance may have to be resorted to.

Rail Bridge and Subway in Chennai

4379. SHRI BRATIN SEN GUPTA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has written to the Railway Board for Rail Bridge and subway across twelve level crossing in the Chennai City;

(b) what decision has been taken vis-a-vis that; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Question Perhaps refers to the 12 level crossings falling in Chennai-Egmore-Tambaram section which are being converted into Road Over Bridges/Under Bridges with cost sharing by Tamilnadu Government as conveyed by them in Oct. 1998. Provision of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges in replacement of these level crossings has been taken up as part of the project of Gauge Conversion of Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu section, cost of which is also being shared by the State Government of Tamilnadu & Railway. Adequate funds have been made available for the project.

Supply of Wagons as per Specification G-93

4380. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wagon manufacturing companies supplying wagons to the Railways fulfil the provisions of Indian Railways specification G-93; and

(b) if not, the names of companies for which these specifications have been relaxed and reasons for relaxing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. As per latest Report of RDSO, only M/s. Cimmeo Ltd. and M/s. Southern Structurals fulfill the provisions of Indian Railway specification G-93 for all types of wagons including Tank wagons and M/s. HDC fulfill the provisions of G-93 for types other than tank wagons.

(b) All other wagon manufacturers including M/s. Burn Standard, M/s. Braithwaite, M/s. Jessops, M/s. Bharat Wagon, M/s. Modern Industries, M/s. Titagarh, M/s. BESCO, M/s. Texmaco etc. do not fulfill provisions of G-93 specification. Relaxation is being granted as strict insistence of compliance of G-93 specification would have debarred the above firms including several PSUs from getting orders. Moreover, total capacity of the firms complying with G-93 specification is not adequate to meet the requirement of Indian Railways.

Guideline for procuring high value items

4381. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any specific guideline for procuring high value items only through two parts bids i.e. technical and price so that price bids are not opened before fulfilling technical specification ;